

# **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 14:00 HOURS**  
**IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE,**  
**BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB**

### **A G E N D A**

#### **1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST**

The Chair to advise/meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite ([please click this link](#)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

#### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Members are reminded they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting.

If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If other registerable interests are declared a Member may speak on the matter only if members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', Members do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that they have an interest.

Information on the Local Government Association's Model Councillor Code of Conduct is set out via <http://bit.ly/3WtGQnN>. This includes, at Appendix 1, an interests flowchart which provides a simple guide to declaring interests at meetings.

3 **APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies.

4 **MINUTES**

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2024.

**5 - 6**

5 **COMMISSIONER'S REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON AGENDA**

For the Committee to note the attached comments on the agenda.

**7 - 14**

6 **PETITIONS UPDATE**

Report of the Interim City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer.

**15 - 30**

7 **OVERSEAS TRAVEL AND INWARD DELEGATIONS FROM ABROAD**

Report of the Strategic Director, Place, Prosperity and Sustainability.

8 **BUDGET COUNCIL 2024 - VERBAL UPDATE**

Item Description

**31 - 34**

9 **COUNCIL AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING - 5 MARCH 2024**

To consider the Council agenda for the next meeting.

**35 - 64**

10 **CITY COUNCIL AND CBMC FORWARD PLAN**

To consider the City Council and Council Business Management Committee Forward Plan.

11 **COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DATES FOR 2024**

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**2024:**

Tuesday 2 April

Tuesday 7 May

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12 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chair are matters of urgency.

13 **AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

Chair to move:-

'In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee'.



**Birmingham City Council**  
**Council Business Management Committee**  
12 February 2024

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**Commissioner's Review:**

**Agenda item 7 'Overseas Travel and Inward Delegations from Abroad':**

While commissioners note that expenses had been covered, the Council funding officer time and travel time is a loss to delivery of the required improvement and recovery plan. The Council should explore whether these events can be attended remotely.



**Birmingham City Council**  
**Council Business Management Committee**

12 February 2024



**Subject:** Petitions Update  
**Report of:** Marie Rosenthal, Interim City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer  
**Report author:** Ben Patel Sadler  
Senior Committee Manager  
[Ben.Patel-Sadler@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Ben.Patel-Sadler@birmingham.gov.uk)

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential: N/A

**1 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 To update the Committee on progress made in responding to petitions presented to full Council and to provide an update in relation to the continuing management of petitions.

**2 Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the progress made in relation to the responding to and discharging of petitions.
- 2.2 That the Committee notes the number of outstanding petitions attributed to each directorate as outlined at 4.3 of the report.
- 2.3 That the Committee determines if any additional measures are required to ensure the continuing progress relating to the responding and discharging of petitions is maintained.

### 3 Background

- 3.1 During recent meetings of the Committee, Members have expressed concern with regards to the amount of time taken to respond to and subsequently discharge petitions submitted by Councillors, especially in relation to City Operations. In addition, at the last meeting, Commissioners highlighted that “significant improvement in the management of petitions was urgently required and must be closely monitored and managed”.
- 3.2 At the meeting on 22 January 2024, Members noted that City Operations would aim to discharge all petitions attributed to the directorate by the end of February 2024. Members further noted that an aspirational target was for all City Operations petitions to have been responded to and discharged by 1 February 2024.
- 3.3 The Strategic Director of City Operations was invited to attend the meeting held on 22 January 2024 to explain why the number of petitions attributed to the directorate was significant and to provide assurance to Members in terms of how petitions would be managed, responded to and subsequently discharged moving forwards.
- 3.4 During his address to the Committee, the Strategic Director of City Operations made clear that he would brief the City Operations Department Management Team to emphasise the importance of responding to and discharging petitions within the agreed timescales outlined at 3.6.
- 3.5 The Interim City Solicitor also informed the Committee that following the 22 January meeting, she would be addressing the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) to emphasise the importance of all directorates responding to and subsequently discharging petitions submitted by Councillors within the agreed timeframes.
- 3.6 At a meeting of CLT held during the week commencing 22 January 2024, Strategic Directors acknowledged this address and committed to manage petitions according to the protocol (outlined below) that applies to all petitions submitted by Members<sup>1</sup>:

1. Petition presented at City Council.
2. Petition referred to the appropriate directorate for response within 3 working days.

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that the protocol applies only to petitions sent internally and not to those which are referred to outside bodies for action.



3. Directorate to write to the Councillor presenting the petition and the first named petitioner to acknowledge receipt within 14 days of the City Council.
4. Progress of investigation into petition to be notified by the relevant directorate to Committee Manger for inclusion in the monthly Petitions Update no later than 10 working days before the next City Council.
5. Final response to petition included in Petitions Update by Committee Manager.
6. Director to notify the Councillor who presented the petition and the first named petitioner of the outcome within 14 days of the relevant City Council meeting discharging the same.

#### 4. Current Position

- 4.1 Following the completion of the Council Business Management Committee which took place on 22 January 2024, approximately 32 petitions were responded to and subsequently discharged by the City Operations directorate.
- 4.2 In addition, a further 8 petitions were responded to and subsequently discharged by other directorates. As a result, 41 out of 50 outstanding petitions have been discharged from the schedule in total since the 22 January 2024.
- 4.3 Appendix 1 to this report outlines (in detail) the number of outstanding petitions as of 2 February 2024, this includes petitions presented to City Council on 9 January 2024. The table below outlines (in summary) the number of outstanding petitions by directorate.

Directorate	Number of Outstanding Petitions
Place, Prosperity and Sustainability	5
City Operations	1
Strategy, Equality and Partnerships	1
Inclusive Growth	1
City Housing	1
Total	9

- 4.4 Where a response, or responses, remain outstanding, the Committee may wish to invite the relevant Strategic Director to attend the next meeting, as was the case with the Strategic Director of City Operations on 22 January 2024.
- 4.5 To ensure agreed timescales are adhered to, the City Solicitor will continue to provide the Corporate Leadership Team with updates on outstanding petitions on a monthly basis. If such improvements are not sustained during February, this will include a review of the petitions protocol.
- 4.6 However, given the substantial number of petitions discharged since the 22 January 2024, and the commitment from CLT that each directorate will adhere at all times to the agreed timescales in relation to the responding to and discharging of petitions, it is hoped that such a review will no longer be required.

## **5 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

## **6 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

## **7 Public Sector Equality Duty**

- 7.1 There are no immediate equality implications arising from this report.

## **8 Other Implications**

- 8.1 None.

## **9 Background Papers**

- 9.1 None.

## **10 Appendices**

- 10.1 Appendix 1: Outstanding petitions as of the 2 February 2024.

**PETITIONS RELATING TO CITY COUNCIL FUNCTIONS PRESENTED TO CITY COUNCIL – 6 FEBRUARY 2024**

<b><u>DATE OF RECEIPT/ PRESENTED BY CATEGORY</u></b>	<b><u>DESCRIPTION/SENT TO</u></b>	<b><u>RESPONSE</u></b>
2680 12.09.2023 Councillor Robert Alden <b>EXEC</b>	From residents of Alum Rock Ward and the Alum Rock Traders Association calling upon Birmingham City Council to reconsider the selling of the surplus land on Adderley Road – <i>Director of Place, Prosperity and Sustainability</i>	01.11.23 - Referred to Property Services for investigation and response.  05.12.2023 - Email has been sent asking for an update.  06.02.2024 - Email has been sent asking for an update.
2687 12.09.2023 Councillor Sir Albert Bore <b>EXEC</b>	From residents of Ladywood and Birmingham calling upon Birmingham City Council to have a proper consultation process to explain the large, phased regeneration – <i>Director of Place, Prosperity and Sustainability</i>	07.11.23 - Referred to Project Delivery Manager for investigation and response.  05.12.2023 - Email has been sent asking for an update.  09.01.2024 - Email has been sent asking for an update.  06.02.2024 - Email has been sent asking for an update.
2703 07.11.2023 Councillor Alex Yip	From residents of Sutton Wylde Green Ward calling upon Birmingham City Council to condemn terrorist organisation, Hamas and to urge the Council to restrict marches on this issue away from schools, transport hubs, religious or education establishments and urge the Council to lobby Government for opening of safe passages for Gazan refugees into Egypt, Saudi Arabia and others of the Arab League	30.01.24 - Support and commentary received from Waqar Ahmed.  31.01.24 - Response drafted for sign off by Richard Brooks.  01.02.24 - Email response to be sent to Cllr Yip from Richard Brooks

	of Nations – <i>Director of Strategy, Equality and Partnerships</i>	
2708 07.11.2023 Councillor David Barker	From residents of Brandwood & Kings Heath Ward calling upon Birmingham City Council to introduce a car free school Street for Kings Heath Primary School – <i>Director of Place, Prosperity and Sustainability</i>	05.12.2023 - Referred to Head of Transport Planning. 06.02.2024 - Email has been sent asking for an update.
2710 07.11.2023 Councillor Kath Scott	From residents of Sutton Vesey Ward and adjoining areas calling on National Express and Transport for West Midlands to provide additional buses for a more reliable service for children attending John Willmott and Fairfax Schools and further call upon Birmingham City Council to use its influence to administer safety and support measures to ensure children have a safe journey to and from school – <i>Director of Place, Prosperity and Sustainability</i>	05.12.2023 - Referred to Head of Transport Planning. 06.02.2024 - A response has been agreed by Cabinet Member for Transport.
2714 07.11.2023 Councillor Nicky Brennan	From the residents of Evelyn Road, Sparkhill objecting to the re-opening of Exempt Accommodation that had previously shut down – <i>Director of Place, Prosperity and Sustainability</i>  <b>WAITING FOR CLLR BRENNAN TO EMAIL A COPY OF THE PETITION</b>	05.12.2023 – Still awaiting petition.
2719 09.01.2024 Councillor Zafar Iqbal <b>EXEC</b>	From residents of Kathleen Road, Yardley objecting to the amount of exempt properties in the road and the failure to manage the ASB, drug use and general criminality that a high number of exempt properties, situated in this small area, attracts – <i>Director of City Housing</i>	
2722 09.01.2024	From residents of Northfield Ward calling upon Birmingham City Council to repair the boiler and carry	

Councillor Adrian Delaney <b>EXEC</b>	out other required repairs to Northfield Library – <i>Director of City Operations</i>	
2723 09.01.2024 Councillor Adrian Delaney <b>EXEC</b>	From residents of Kings Norton calling upon Birmingham City Council to install some form of traffic calming measures due to increased speeding on Rednal Road – <i>Inclusive Growth</i>	23.01.24 – Petition referred to Inclusive Growth for a response to be provided.  06.02.2024 - Referred to Transport Delivery Manager.  A response has been agreed by Cabinet Member for Transport.

**CATEGORIES:**    **COMM**       = Petitions relating to Committees functions    **EXEC**       = Petitions relating to the Executive functions



# Birmingham City Council

## Council Business Management Committee

12 February 2024



**Subject:** Overseas Travel and Inward Delegations from Abroad  
**Report of:** Strategic Director – Places, Prosperity and Sustainability  
**Report author:** Lloyd Broad  
Head of European and International Affairs  
0121 303 2377  
[lloyd.broad@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:lloyd.broad@birmingham.gov.uk)

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :

### 1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 To provide details, for information, of Member and Officer overseas travel undertaken between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.
- 1.2 To provide details, for information, of known proposed Member and Officer overseas travel forthcoming commitments for the next monitoring period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.
- 1.3 To provide details, for information, of inward delegations from abroad for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.
- 1.4 **Please note: since the announcement of the Section 114 notice, overseas travel has been temporarily suspended unless funded by ring fenced grant and / or is contractually necessary. Any upcoming proposed visits will be subject to these tests and will be subject to Section 151 Board Approval.**

### 2 Recommendation

- 2.1 To note approved Member and officer overseas travel.
- 2.2 To note the proposed upcoming forward travel proposals.
- 2.3 To note the details of inward delegations from abroad.

- 2.4 To note that with effect from 19 January 2016 authority for foreign travel by City Council Members and officers will only be granted when 4 weeks' notice has been given. Visits proposed with less than 4 weeks' notice will be refused unless under EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES which will require written documentation and an extremely robust reason to travel.
- 2.5 To note that additional requirements to complete a COVID risk assessment prior to travel has to be conducted as part of the Authorisation to Travel process.

### **3 Background**

#### OVERSEAS TRAVEL

- 3.1 The Council Business Management Committee has responsibility for the oversight of arrangements for foreign travel undertaken by Members and officers of the City Council. Under the new administration the authorisation of foreign travel has been delegated to Strategic Directors and the Chief Executive or nominee.
- 3.2 At the request of Members, quarterly reports on foreign travel undertaken are reported to this Committee.
- 3.3 In line with established practice the attached schedule of visits are grouped to reflect the main activity areas identified within the Council's current international activities. With particular relevance to the City Council's priorities as detailed in the Council Plan. Those activities include:
- Civic related visits – Visits undertaken by the Lord Mayor.
  - Networks/Policy – The various European and international agencies on which we have representation or where we seek to further Birmingham's interests e.g. Eurocities and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum.
  - Sister/Partner Cities – This refers to our ongoing work with Chicago, Frankfurt, Guangzhou, Johannesburg, Leipzig, Lyon and Milan.
  - Funding, Specific Projects/Professional – Where Birmingham participates in collaborative, practical or funding initiatives with benefits to Birmingham, or where joint work is undertaken through professional bodies.
- 3.4 In the interest of minimising the costs of foreign travel undertaken by Members and officers' requests must be submitted at least 4 weeks before the intended date of travel.
- 3.5 This will enable the purchase of flights and accommodation at the most economical cost.

#### TRAVEL UNDERTAKEN

- 3.6 The attached Appendix A is a summary of approved overseas travel comprising of 0 visits undertaken by Members and 3 visits by officers at a maximum cost of £0.



## PROPOSED FORTHCOMING TRAVEL

- 3.7 The attached Appendix B provides an indicative schedule of known forthcoming travel proposals providing CBM with an early insight for information. It should be noted that this schedule is not an approved travel schedule. Each proposal will follow the normal approval process. Due to the Section 114 notice, conditions will also need to be satisfied as set out in paragraph 1.4.

## INWARD DELEGATIONS FROM ABROAD

- 3.8 As part of the City Council's broader engagement with the international community consideration has been given to how the Council can improve the effectiveness of delegations to Birmingham from abroad. Consequently, a registry of such visits was established in January 2008.
- 3.9 Subsequently the Council Business Management Committee requested, in December 2008, that regular reports be submitted with details of delegations visiting Birmingham from abroad. Attached is a summary of inward visits for 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 as Appendix C.



CIVIC RELATED VISITS - None

NETWORK RELATED VISITS – None

PARTNER CITIES RELATED VISITS - None

PROFESSIONAL, FUNDING AND SPECIFIC PROJECTS RELATED VISITS

DEPARTMENT /REPRESENTATION	DESTINATION	DURATION	PURPOSE OF VISIT / PRACTICAL OUTCOMES	TOTAL COST	BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES 2022-2026
<p>European and International Affairs, Places, Prosperity &amp; Sustainability Directorate – 2 Officers</p> <p>Public Health, Partnerships, Insight and Prevention Directorate – 1 Officer seconded from the Healthy Futures Ltd in the role of Cross Cutting Theme Manager for Nutrition in the Food Trails project.</p> <p>Public Health Division Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships Directorate – 1 Officer</p>	<p>Funchal, Madeira, Portugal</p>	<p>14-17 November 2023</p>	<p><b>EU Funding Project: H2020 Food Trails project Annual Partner Meeting</b></p> <p>Birmingham is one of 11 cities participating in the EU funded Horizon 2020 project <a href="https://eurocities.eu/projects/food-trails/">https://eurocities.eu/projects/food-trails/</a></p> <p>Annual Partner project meeting to discuss progress, priorities and review final year project delivery including financial analysis and review of any underspends. This meeting will also be used to plan Year 4 activities and ensuring rules and regulations are being met.</p> <p>(Note: Overseas meetings are conditional requirements of the Grant)</p> <p><b>Practical Outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project budget reprofile agreed with Lead Partner.</li> <li>• Communication and dissemination activities in Birmingham agreed with Lead Partner to cover to the end of the project.</li> <li>• Future Horizon Europe funding opportunities explored with Partners.</li> <li>• The city's active participation, contributions, and strategic positioning reaffirm its commitment to shaping the future of sustainable and healthy food policies both locally and on the European stage.</li> <li>• The learning from food waste separation, nutrition focussed projects and growing and urban spaces shared with Birmingham team.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ALL COSTS MET BY EUROPEAN FUNDING</b></p> <p>Authorised by Justin Varney, Paul Kitson and Lloyd Broad</p>	<p>Employment, skills and local economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support inclusive economic growth</li> <li>• Attract inward investment and infrastructure</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities for children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empower citizens and enable the citizen voice</li> </ul> <p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage and enable physical activity and healthy living</li> </ul>

DEPARTMENT /REPRESENTATION	DESTINATION	DURATION	PURPOSE OF VISIT / PRACTICAL OUTCOMES	TOTAL COST	BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES 2022-2026
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New mapping tool to analyse relationships between City stakeholders for food system mapping focussing on interconnected relationships shared with Birmingham team.</li> </ul>		
Resettlement & Migration Team Adult Social Care and Health Directorate - 1 Officer	Brussels, Belgium	23-25 November 2023	<p><b>EU Funding Project:</b> <a href="#">The Migrant Integration through Local designed Experiences (MILE) project</a> is an EU funded programme consisting of an international partnership of 6 European cities. The aim of this 2 yr. project is to enable migrant participation in local government and empower local communities by creating international exchange networks and partnerships. The visit to Brussels, Belgium in November 2023 is to participate in the final project meeting.</p> <p>(Note: Overseas meetings are conditional requirements of the Grant)</p> <p>The Mile project supports the Councils: City of Sanctuary policy,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equalities and cohesion strategy and policies</li> <li>Citizen participation and inclusion strategy</li> </ul> <p><b>Practical Outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Culminating a 2-year project where BCC was a key partner, the conference concentrated on advancing migrant inclusion and gaining a comprehensive understanding of successful civic and political integration at a local level across EU countries.</li> <li>Through the conference, partners shared practical insights and first-hand experiences in engaging the migrant population within their municipalities in civic and political life of the cities. BCC representative presented BCC's approach, including robust panel and consultations exercise undertaken in re-writing City of Sanctuary Policy, engagement of "Experts by Experience" in the allocation process of Asylum Dispersal grants, the role of LAASLO (Local Authority</li> </ul>	<p><b>ALL COSTS MET BY EUROPEAN FUNDING</b></p> <p>Authorised by Graeme Betts and Lloyd Broad</p>	<p>Employment, skills and local economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support inclusive economic growth</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities for children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tackle poverty and inequalities</li> <li>Empower citizens and enable the citizen voice</li> <li>Promote and champion diversity, civic pride and culture</li> <li>Support and enable all children and young people to thrive</li> </ul> <p>Community resilience, cohesion and living standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect and safeguard vulnerable citizens</li> </ul> <p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tackle health inequalities</li> <li>Encourage and enable physical activity and healthy living</li> <li>Champion Mental Health</li> </ul>

DEPARTMENT /REPRESENTATION	DESTINATION	DURATION	PURPOSE OF VISIT / PRACTICAL OUTCOMES	TOTAL COST	BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES 2022-2026
			<p>Asylum Seeker Liaison Officer), and creation of Migrant Advice Portal. Best practice from international partners included deliberative democracy approaches, structural engagement of migrant citizens, creative recruitment strategies, sustainability &amp; independence of consultative bodies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the final consortium meeting in Brussels solidified partnerships with municipalities, academic institutions, and third-sector partners, fostering valuable connections and we have joined an international exchange network.</li> </ul> <p>Project knowledge was disseminated among local internal and external partners and fortified the Birmingham MILE consultative group and ensured its sustainability post-project. We are hoping to work with the Public Participation team to mainstream migrant participation among other citizen engagement activities.</p>		
<p>Transport Development &amp; Information, Transport &amp; Connectivity Places, Prosperity &amp; Sustainability Directorate – 1 Officer</p>	<p>Barcelona, Spain</p>	<p>28-30 November 2023</p>	<p><b>EU Funding Project: The JIVE project – FCHJU funded</b></p> <p>The Council are a key partner within the European funded FCHJU ( Joint Undertaking for fuel cell hydrogen vehicles) project 'JIVE'. The Council have secured the majority of the funding for 20 hydrogen buses from the FCHJU, and have purchased the buses and working with the Bus Operator to pilot operational viability as part of the main bus fleet.</p> <p>It is a requirement of the FCHJU/JIVE contract to attend Consortium meetings to update on project management and share learning.</p> <p>(Note: Overseas meetings are conditional requirements of the Grant)</p>	<p><b>ALL COSTS MET BY EUROPEAN FUNDING</b></p> <p>Authorised by Ian MacLeod and Lloyd Broad</p>	<p>Climate Emergency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve Air Quality</li> <li>• Continue on the Route to Net Zero</li> </ul>

DEPARTMENT /REPRESENTATION	DESTINATION	DURATION	PURPOSE OF VISIT / PRACTICAL OUTCOMES	TOTAL COST	BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES 2022-2026
			<p><b>Practical Outcomes:</b></p> <p>Sharing experiences of JIVE Partner progress, challenges faced, best practices and lessons being learned during the H2 bus operational pilot including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on progress made on Hydrogen Re-fuelling Station reliability and supply chain issues.</li> <li>• JIVE partner reporting on data collection and analysis.</li> <li>• JIVE programme administrative update- with partner updates on amendments, financial reporting, and work package deliverables.</li> </ul>		

**Total Cost of visits = £0**  
**No of visits by Members = 0**  
**No of visits by Officers = 3**  
**No of visits at No Cost to the City = 3**  
**Total cost of visits undertaken between**

**Current financial year 2023/2024**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No of visits</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1 April 2023 – 30 June 2023	12	£4,309.85
1 July 2023 – 30 September 2023	1	£7,856.31
1 October 2023 – 31 December 2023	3	£0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>£12,166.16</b>

**Visits summary 2022/2023**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No of visits</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1 April 2022 – 30 June 2022	10	£4,987.68
1 July 2022 – 30 September 2022	8	£3,628.38
1 October 2022 – 31 December 2022	12	£20,137.73
1 January 2023 – 31 March 2023	7	£7,805.61
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>£36,559.40</b>

**Visits summary 2021/2022**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No of visits</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1 April 2021 – 30 June 2021	0	£0
1 July 2021 – 30 September 2021	0	£0
1 October 2021 – 31 December 2021	4	£1,934.11
1 January 2022 – 31 March 2022	6	£21,454.27
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>£23,388.38</b>

**Visits summary 2020/2021**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No of visits</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1 April 2020 – 30 June 2020	0	£0
1 July 2020 – 30 September 2020	0	£0
1 October 2020 – 31 December 2020	0	£0
1 January 2021 – 31 March 2021	0	£0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£0</b>

**Costings Info for the previous period, 2015-2020:****Visits summary 2019/2020**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No of visits</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1 April 2019 – 30 June 2019	12	£ 8,736.64
1 July 2019 – 30 September 2019	6	£ 1,848.81
1 October 2019 – 31 December 2019	20	£19,145.00
1 January 2020 – 31 March 2020	10	£ 899.16
<b>Totals</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>£30,629.61</b>

**Visits summary 2018/2019**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No of visits</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1 April 2018 – 30 June 2018 (*figure includes £49,022.05 for Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia)	23	*£60,188.86
1 July 2018 – 30 September 2018	12	£13,879.46
1 October – 31 December 2018	13	£2,374.68
1 January 2019 – 31 March 2019	11	£2,356.58
<b>Totals</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>£78,799.58</b>

**Visits summary 2017/2018**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No of visits</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1 April 2017 – 30 June 2017	17	£13,788
1 July 2017 – 30 September 2017	8	£2,634
1 October – 31 December 2017	21	£7,026.18
1 January 2018 – 31 March 2018	17	£3,956.01
<b>Totals</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>£27,404.19</b>

**Visits summary 2016/2017**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No of visits</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1 April 2016 – 30 June 2016	25	£16,989
1 July – 30 September 2016	12	£5,133
1 October – 31 December 2016	36	£9,112
1 January 2017 – 31 March 2017	24	£14,839
<b>Totals</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>£46,073</b>

**Visits summary 2015/2016**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No of visits</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1 April 2015 to 30 June 2015	36	£8,648
1 July – 30 September 2015	32	£18,740
1 October – 31 December 2015	42	£15,910



1 January 2016 - 31 March 2016	25	£16,687
<b>Totals</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>£59,985</b>

**Costings Info for the previous period, 2014-2015:**

**Visits summary 2014/2015**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No of visits</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1 April 2014 to 30 June 2014	28	£21,966
1 July – 30 September 2014	16	£7,833
1 October – 31 December 2014	39	£14,659
1 January 2015 to 31 March 2015	21	£9,540
<b>Totals</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>£53,998</b>



Dates (if known)	Department / Representation	Destination	Purpose of Visit	Type of Visit / Costings Info	Birmingham City Council Corporate Plan Priorities 2022-2026 (Proposed)
16-18 February 2024	Councillor Chaman Lal Finance & Governance Lord Mayor Lady Mayoress, Vidya Wati Lord Mayor's Office - 1 Officer Places, Prosperity & Sustainability Directorate - 1 Officer	Co. Clare, Ireland	<b>Civic Visit to County Clare, Ireland</b>  The Mayor of Clare has extended an invitation to the Lord Mayor of Birmingham to undertake a visit to the County to explore where deeper connections can be built between the two regions on a variety of footprints from trade/investment to education and culture.	Total travel and accommodation costs are fully funded by County Clare, Ireland	Employment, skills and local economy • Support inclusive economic growth • Tackle unemployment and skills • Attract inward investment and infrastructure
19-23 February 2024	Public Health, Partnerships, Insight and Prevention Directorate – 1 Officer seconded from the Healthy Futures Ltd in the role of Cross Cutting Theme Manager for Nutrition in the Food Trails project.	Funchal, Portugal	<b>EU Funding Project: Food Trails Project Visit</b>  Birmingham is one of 11 cities participating in the EU funded Horizon 2020 project <a href="https://eurocities.eu/projects/food-trails/">https://eurocities.eu/projects/food-trails/</a>  Birmingham has been identified as the nutrition theme lead and will be supporting all 11 cities to implement their pilots.  •The aim of the Horizon 2020 Food Trails project is to support policy changes which will reform individual cities' food systems, including supporting cities to improve the nutrition of its citizens, reduce food miles (reduce carbon output), promote circularity such as reducing food waste, involving the citizens in new approaches.  •Visits rather than virtual meetings take place as Cross Cutting Theme Managers (CCM's) are expected to provide support to pilot activities and stakeholders. Pilot activities include community development projects with little/no digital access. •Following the trip a report will be produced to incorporate into a final report. •Lessons learnt will be shared with the Birmingham Food Systems Team through Food Trails meetings. •The cost for this trip is fully funded by the Horizon 2020 Food Trails project.	EU FUNDED PROJECT - All expenses paid for by project	Employment, skills and local economy • Support inclusive economic growth • Tackle unemployment and skills • Attract inward investment and infrastructure  Opportunities for children and young people • Tackle poverty and inequalities • Empower citizens and enable the citizen voice  Health and Wellbeing • Tackle Health Inequalities • Encourage and enable physical activity and healthy living
26-29 February 2024	European and International Affairs, Places, Prosperity & Sustainability Directorate - 1 Officer & Public Health, Partnerships, Insight and Prevention Directorate – 1 Officer & East Birmingham Programme, Places, Prosperity & Sustainability Directorate - 1 Officer Public Health, Partnerships, Insight and Prevention Directorate – 1 Officer seconded from the Healthy Futures Ltd in the role of Cross Cutting Theme Manager for Nutrition in the Food Trails project.	Warsaw, Poland	<b>EU Funding Project: Food Trails Project Visit</b>  This purpose of this visit is to learn from Warsaw good practice including a farm co-operative using regenerative farm practices in an urban context, how businesses are supported to reduce food waste, how Warsaw transformed its food economy creating a non-obesogenic environment, a procurement methodology to support innovative food businesses. Additionally, we will learn about the Boost Programme, the business incubator for food businesses that Warsaw successfully implemented in the recent years transforming the city into a capital of healthy eating and sustainability. Learning from this project will inform business support programmes funded by the UK SPF and a joint proposal currently being developed with the Aston University  These practices are of direct relevance to the three pilot actions that are being funded through the Birmingham Food Trails Living Lab and include: •Nutrition pilot 'Full of Beans' •Feasibility study to transform spaces in Birmingham in urban growing/distribution hub •Food waste separation pilot including composting and growing.  Learning from Warsaw will be embedded into the above activities.  •Visits rather than virtual meetings take place as Cross Cutting Theme Managers (CCM's) are expected to provide support to pilot activities and stakeholders. Pilot activities include community development projects with little/no digital access. •Following the trip a report will be produced to incorporate into a final report. •Lessons learnt will be shared with the Birmingham Food Systems Team through Food Trails meetings. •The cost for this trip is fully funded by the Horizon 2020 Food Trails project.	EU FUNDED PROJECT - All expenses paid for by project	Employment, skills and local economy • Support inclusive economic growth • Tackle unemployment and skills • Attract inward investment and infrastructure  Opportunities for children and young people • Tackle poverty and inequalities • Empower citizens and enable the citizen voice  Health and Wellbeing • Tackle Health Inequalities • Encourage and enable physical activity and healthy living

Dates (if known)	Department / Representation	Destination	Purpose of Visit	Type of Visit / Costings Info	Birmingham City Council Corporate Plan Priorities 2022-2026 (Proposed)
13-15 March 2024	Public Health, Partnerships, Insight and Prevention Directorate – 1 Officer seconded from the Healthy Futures Ltd in the role of Cross Cutting Theme Manager for Nutrition in the Food Trails project.	Thessaloniki , Greece	<p><b>EU Funding Project: Food Trails Project Visit</b></p> <p>Birmingham is one of 11 cities participating in the EU funded Horizon 2020 project <a href="https://eurocities.eu/projects/food-trails/">https://eurocities.eu/projects/food-trails/</a></p> <p>Birmingham has been identified as the nutrition theme lead and will be supporting all 11 cities to implement their pilots.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The aim of the Horizon 2020 Food Trails project is to support policy changes which will reform individual cities' food systems, including supporting cities to improve the nutrition of its citizens, reduce food miles (reduce carbon output), promote circularity such as reducing food waste, involving the citizens in new approaches.</li> <li>•Visits rather than virtual meetings take place as Cross Cutting Theme Managers (CCM's) are expected to provide support to pilot activities and stakeholders. Pilot activities include community development projects with little/no digital access.</li> <li>•Following the trip a report will be produced to incorporate into a final report.</li> <li>•Lessons learnt will be shared with the Birmingham Food Systems Team through Food Trails meetings.</li> <li>•The cost for this trip is fully funded by the Horizon 2020 Food Trails project.</li> </ul>	EU FUNDED PROJECT - All expenses paid for by project	<p>Employment, skills and local economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support inclusive economic growth</li> <li>• Tackle unemployment and skills</li> <li>• Attract inward investment and infrastructure</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities for children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackle poverty and inequalities</li> <li>• Empower citizens and enable the citizen voice</li> </ul> <p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackle Health Inequalities</li> <li>• Encourage and enable physical activity and healthy living</li> </ul>

**REGISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL INWARD DELEGATIONS - COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - 12 FEBRUARY 2024**

**APPENDIX C**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Delegation</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Nos.</b>	<b>Department</b>
2 October 2023	Mayor Spyros Troulloi, VIP Stelios Piskopianos, Ms Gregoriou, Ms Logan +1	Cyprus	Courtesy call by one of the Mayors of Cyprus	5	Lord Mayor's Parlour / Councillor Mosquito
10 October 2023	Provinces from Hoa Binh; Ha Nam, Lam Dong, Vinh Phuc, Kien Giang and Hanoi	Viet Nam	Connecting Viet Nam & the West Midlands conference with a welcome from the Lord Mayor	54	European and International Affairs / Lord Mayor's Parlour
11-13 October 2023	Circa 120 Culture Delegates from cities across Europe including: Ljubljana, Lyon, Toulouse, Cologne, Dresden, Munich, Strasbourg, Nantes, Stuttgart, Malmo, Braga, Prague, Aarhus, Leipzig, Dresden, Kadikoy, Stockholm, Lille, Ghent, Twente, Bologna, Milan, Tampere, Vilnius, Turku, Chemnitz, Brno, Tallin, Pilsen, Much, Oulu, Riga, Nuremberg, Valencia, Florence, Oslo, Lisbon, Mannheim, Terrassa, Leuven, Kortrijk, Breda, Amiens, Eindhoven, Helsinki, Espoo and UK Glasgow, Belfast, Derry & Strabane, Edinburgh, Manchester, Leeds, Brighton & Hove, Bristol	Various	Birmingham City Council hosted Eurocities Cultural Forum for the first time. The city was one of the founding partner cities and chaired the forum from 2018 – 2020. Due to S114 restrictions, the event was jointly funded by three partners – The WMCA, West Midlands Growth Company and Arts Council England. The Forum took place over 3 days (11 – 13 October) with 120 delegates attending a programme of presentations, case study visits and working groups organised by the culture service in a range of venues across the city.  The Lord Mayor attended the Welcome Reception. This was the first time that the Culture Forum was attended by our Partner City Lyon and coincided with the action plan to co-ordinate Partner City activity.	120	Cultural Development and Tourism / European and International Affairs / Lord Mayor's Parlour
13 October 2023	Mr Hussain, Mr Khan Ijaz	Pakistan	Visit by Mr Waqas Hussain, a solicitor	2	Lord Mayor's Parlour / Councillor Saqib Khan
13 October 2023	Michel Rodrigue, CPA, CMA, MBA - President and Chief Executive Officer Wendy Hepburn Director, Strategic Partnerships Mental Health Commission of Canada	Canada	The visit was part of a multi-site visit from the Mental Health Commission of Canada organised jointly by the What Works for Wellbeing Centre and Coventry University. They came to meet with the Director of Public Health to understand the role of local authority in addressing public mental health issues and population action to increase wellbeing. This was preceded by a session with the WMCA on the WM Mental health Commission and followed by a session with Coventry City Council.	2	Public Health, Strategy, Equality and Partnerships Department
1 November 2023	EUROPOD / Basketball Team from Lyon, France	France	Visit by Office des Sports Lyon involving Birmingham Rockets with Civic Welcome by Lord Mayor of Birmingham	12	European and International Affairs / Sport Birmingham / Lord Mayor's Parlour
13 December 2023	Prof Glyn Davis AC, Secretary to the Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet (Governor's spouse), Jonathan Burke, Official Secretary to the Governor, Tim Dillon, Victorian Agent General to the UK & Commissioner to Europe & Israel, Rob Holland, Executive Director, Victorian Department of Premier & Cabinet	Australia	Courtesy call by the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Prof the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC	5	Lord Mayor's Parlour
				<b>TOTAL</b> <b>200</b>	



# Birmingham City Council

## Council Business Management Committee

12 February 2024



**Subject:** City Council Agenda for the Next Meeting – 5 March 2024

**Report of:** Marie Rosenthal, Interim City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

**Report author:** Ben Patel Sadler  
Senior Committee Manager  
[Ben.Patel-Sadler@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Ben.Patel-Sadler@birmingham.gov.uk)

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :

### 1 Executive Summary

1.1 As per the latest version of the Constitution, the Committee is responsible for the planning and preparation of the agenda, papers and other arrangements for meetings of the Council.

### 2 Recommendation(s)

2.1 That the Committee discusses and agrees the agenda items for consideration at the 5 March 2024 City Council meeting.

2.2 The Committee is also asked to discuss and agree the time allocated to each agenda item.

### 3 Legal Implications

3.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

### 4 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

## **5 Public Sector Equality Duty**

5.1 There are no immediate equality implications arising from this report.

## **6 Other Implications**

6.1 None.

## **7 Background Papers**

7.1 None.

## **8 Appendices**

8.1 Appendix 1: Draft agenda for the 5 March 2024 City Council meeting.



# **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

## **MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 2024 AT 1400 HOURS**  
**IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE,**  
**BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB**

### **A G E N D A**

#### **1 NOTICE OF RECORDING**

Lord Mayor to advise that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite (please click this link) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

#### **2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Members are reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non pecuniary interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting

#### **3 MINUTES**

To confirm and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 6 February 2024.

#### **4 LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**(10 minutes allocated) (1400-1410)**

To receive the Lord Mayor's announcements and such communications as the Lord Mayor may wish to place before the Council.

#### **5 PETITIONS**

**(10 minutes allocated) (1410-1420)**

To receive and deal with petitions in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 E of the Constitution).

As agreed by Council Business Management Committee a schedule of outstanding petitions is available electronically with the published papers for the meeting and can be viewed or downloaded.

#### **6 APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

**(5 minutes allocated) (1420-1425)**

To make appointments to, or removals from, committees, outside bodies or other offices which fall to be determined by the Council.

## **7 FINANCIAL PLAN**

**(The remaining time until the close of the meeting at 1915 is allocated)**

**(1425-1915 inclusive of the break)**

Report from Cabinet.

(A 30 Minute break will be taken during the debate at approximately 1630 hours).

Council Business Management Committee has passed the following resolution:-

‘That Standing Orders be waived so that, at the beginning of the debate on the Finance Plan report, the remaining time of the City Council meeting to 1915 hours is allocated for the whole debate, permit the Leader of the City Council to make a speech of up to 20 minutes, permit the other Group Leaders to make a speech of up to 20 minutes each, permit all other speakers in the debate to speak for up to 5 minutes and permit the Leader of the City Council to reply to the debate up to a maximum of 20 minutes’.

**The Leader of the Council, Councillor John Cotton to move the recommendations set out in the document pack at pages x to x.**

Members must, in reaching their decision on the Budget Motions, have due regard to the contents of the Financial Plan when making decisions about the budget.

# Birmingham City Council

## Council Business Management Committee

12 February 2024



**Subject:** City Council and Council Business Management Committee Forward Plan

**Report of:** Marie Rosenthal, Interim City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

**Report author:** Ben Patel Sadler  
Senior Committee Manager  
[Ben.Patel-Sadler@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Ben.Patel-Sadler@birmingham.gov.uk)

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :

### 1 Executive Summary

1.1 At each Committee meeting, Members are presented with the latest version of the forward plan of agenda items for both meetings of the Council Business Management Committee and the City Council. The document also provides the Committee with a progress update in relation to City Council Resolutions.

### 2 Recommendation(s)

2.1 That the Committee discusses and notes the forward plan of agenda items related to meetings of the Council Business Management Committee and the City Council.

2.2 The Committee is also asked to agree any changes (if required) to the forward plan of agenda items related to meetings of the Council Business Management Committee and the City Council.

2.3 The Committee is asked to note the updates provided in relation to City Council Resolutions.

### **3 Legal Implications**

3.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

### **4 Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

### **5 Public Sector Equality Duty**

5.1 There are no immediate equality implications arising from this report.

### **6 Other Implications**

6.1 None.

### **7 Background Papers**

7.1 None.

### **8 Appendices**

8.1 Appendix 1: Latest version of the forward plan of agenda items related to meetings of the Council Business Management Committee and the City Council.



## CITY COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN 2023/24 – FEB 2024

CBM	Item	City Council	Item
9 May 2023	Education and Children’s Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Co-Optees and Voting Rights (verbal update) Proportionality City Council Appointments Review of the City Council’s Constitution Schedule of Travel and Inward Delegations Petitions Update	23 May 2023	ANNUAL MEETING Annual Report of the Lord Mayor 2022/23 Presentation to Honorary Alderman Updated Pay Policy Constitution Review City Council Appointments
30 May 2023	Terms of Reference of the Council Business Management Committee Appointment of Sub-Committees and Other Bodies – Request to Appoint Recruitment to the Independent Remuneration Panel and Standards Committee Petitions Update Order of Motions for 2023/24	13 June 2023	Executive Business Report (Leader and Children, Young People & Families) Housing Ombudsman Update – report requested by Full Council in January 2023

CBM	Item	City Council	Item
26 June 2023	Petitions Update The Lord Mayoralty Formula Reports not on the Forward Plan Appointment of CBMC Sub-Committees and Other Bodies – to note confirmed memberships	11 July 2023	<b>Council as Trustee Meeting on Highbury Hall</b> Scrutiny Business Report Srebrenica Memorial Day (Cross Party / CBMC Motion) Reports not on the Forward Plan
29 August 2023	Schedule of Travel and Inward Delegations Review of Polling Districts and Places The Lord Mayoralty Formula Membership for Council House Sub-Committee / Female Cllr Working Group Changes to the Constitution to enable reports on Equal Pay to Full Council on a quarterly basis (Verbal Update)	12 September 2023	Youth Justice Plan Executive Business Report (Environment and Transport) Lead Member Report - WMCA Scrutiny
23 October 2023	Petitions Update Options Paper ref Changes to the Constitution to enable reports on Equal Pay to Full Council on a quarterly basis.	7 November 2023	Lead Member Report - West Midlands Police & Crime Panel Lead Member report: Transport Delivery O&S Committee (moved from the 11 July meeting to align with annual reporting cycle)
20 November 2023	1 September 2023 Extraordinary Meeting Minutes Reports not on the Forward Plan Petitions Update Schedule of Travel and Inward Delegations Exempt Accommodation – issues to be considered as part of the Motion Tracker item	5 December 2023	Executive Business Report (Health and Social Care and Social Justice, Community Cohesion and Equalities) Equal Pay Update Reports not on the Forward Plan Independent Member Recruitment (Under Appointments Update Item)
18 December 2023	Petitions Update	9 January 2024	<b>Extraordinary Council Meeting (1.30pm)</b>

CBM	Item	City Council	Item
	Changes to the Constitution IRP Appointments		Changes to the Constitution IRP Appointments – to be picked up under the Appointments by the Council Lead Member Report - West Midlands Fire Authority Route to Zero Annual Report Scrutiny Inquiry - Children and Young People’s Mental Health
22 January 2024	Petitions Update Budget Council – Discussion Lord Mayor Nomination – 2024/25 – Discussion Reports not on the Forward Plan	6 February 2024	<b>LM Elect (Informal Meeting)</b> <b>Council as Trustee (Highbury – TBC)</b> Reports not on the Forward Plan Members Allowances (IRP Report) Scrutiny Business Report
12 February 2024	Budget Council – Discussion Petitions Update Schedule of Travel and Inward Delegations Suspension of Standing Orders (Budget Council)	5 March 2024	BUDGET MEETING
2 April 2024	Petitions Update Reports not on the Forward Plan Petitions Update Changes to the Constitution (TBC)	16 April 2024	Executive Business Report (Finance and Resources and Housing & Homelessness – portfolio areas TBC) <b>Improvement and Recovery Plan</b> Reports not on the Forward Plan Changes to the Constitution (TBC) Scrutiny Business Report

CBM	Item	City Council	Item
	Dispensation for non-attendance at committee meetings – including any members unwell or on maternity/paternity leave (if required)		Scrutiny Inquiry - Child Criminal Exploitation Annual Report – Standards Committee (Debate not Hate) Annual Report from the Chair of Audit Committee SACRE constitution – timing TBC <b>Note – In view of the items listed above it was suggested by CBMC on 18 December that would not be any Motions considered at this meeting.</b>

**Four Yearly or ad-hoc items:**

Appointment to the Roll of Honorary Alderman (May 2026); Appointment of the Leader (May 2026), Appointment of the Council’s External Auditor (2027)

**Items to be scheduled / proposed:**

Executive Business Reports – June 2024 (Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism and Deputy Leader), Sept/Nov, January and April

Quarterly Scrutiny Business Reports

Lead Member reports: West Midlands Fire Authority (January); Transport Delivery O&S Committee (November); WMCA Scrutiny (September); GBSLEP Scrutiny (date tbc); West Midlands Police & Crime Panel (November/tbc)

Reports not on the Forward Plan (quarterly basis)

Annual Report from the Chair of Audit Committee to City Council (early February)

Schedule of Travel and Inward Delegations (quarterly basis TO CBMC)

Annual Standards Committee Report (Contact: Rob Connelly, Assistant Director, Legal and Governance)



Balsall Heath Governance Review TBC

The Lord Mayoralty Formula (updated each June/July)

\* Pre-meeting of members to select Lord Mayor elect    \*\* Annual Council Photograph

**Appendix 1: City Council Resolutions – Tracker**

Ref no	Date	Summary of Council Resolution	Lead Cabinet Member / Officer(s)	Update
1.	12 July 2022	<p><b>(Other) Changes to the Constitution</b></p> <p>That the following two areas be clarified in the next review of the constitution to reflect previous custom and practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The rules around the time available for questions (Section B 4.4) be amended to ensure that the full allocation of time, usually 70 minutes, is used for questions to ensure accountability of the executive and other office holders. This may be done by amendment to clause (v).</li> <li>- Ensure that significant changes to the constitution are reported to Full Council and that there is a clear process for gaining all party approval and notifying all councillors of changes when it is deemed that changes do not need approval of Full Council.'</li> </ul>	Leader / Deputy Leader	<p>A cross party working group has been established, by Council Business Management Committee, to look at options ahead of reporting back to City Council.</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b></p>
2.	1 November 2022	<p><b>Motion B – Educational Attainment</b></p> <p>Council ... resolves to call on the Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deliver on its pledge to restore education spending, in real terms. to 2010 levels.</li> <li>- End tax exemptions for independent schools, using the £1.7 billion raised to fund state school efforts to bridge the attainment gap.</li> </ul> <p>Council further resolves to:</p>	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families	<p>Our Birmingham Children’s Partnership Board brings together the city council, our Birmingham Children’s Trust, NHS Integrated Care Board, NHS health providers, the police, and the voluntary sector. During 2022, the Board has overseen the development of a cohesive framework for the delivery of our Plan.</p> <p>Over 4,000 of Birmingham’s children and young people told us about the outcomes that matter most to them. Our Plan: Change for Children and Young People 2023-27 will be based on what they told us. Our ambition is for Birmingham to be a great place for us to</p>

Ref no	Date	Summary of Council Resolution	Lead Cabinet Member / Officer(s)	Update
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that 'Change For Children and Young People', Birmingham Children's Partnership (BCP) Board's emerging Children and Young People's Plan 2023-2027, identifies and addresses gaps in attainment.</li> <li>- Call on the Government to adopt the solutions proposed by the cross-party Education Select Committee report and continue to review its findings.</li> <li>- Call on the City Council Executive to ensure that the report's findings and solutions where appropriate to Birmingham, are factored into existing and developing strategies including 'Everyone's Battle, Everyone's Business' and its emerging Inclusion Strategy.</li> <li>- Call on Overview and Scrutiny to incorporate these Birmingham-specific strategies into their work programmes to track outcomes and monitor actions taken to address issues, ensuring they receive full analysis of achievement by socio-economic and ethnic background</li> <li>- Work with employers to ensure opportunity is spread equally, by creating career pathways for the most disadvantaged and deprived areas of the city.</li> <li>- Build on the findings of the Breaking Down Barriers report to develop communication and social media strategies to target the many young and</li> </ul>		<p>grow up, ensuring our children and young people are at the heart of everything we do.</p> <p>There continues to be progress on implementing the recommendations from Breaking the Barriers report, to improve the experiences of children and young people in education and employment opportunities.</p> <p>This work has continued and a report on progress on all 10 recommendations was presented at City Partnership Board on 14 December 2022. In 2023, an employers forum will be established to ensure a greater focus on this area as part of the Council's year of change for children and young people. This will be complemented by the development of our Good Employment Charter which aims to support employers in providing attractive opportunities for the citizens of Birmingham.</p> <p>Our employer forum will play a key role in encouraging local businesses and industries to expand their operations and reskill local people and grow their workforce. In addition, in partnership with the combined authority we will be refreshing our careers offer to support schools, colleges and training providers to provide the best vocational advice for young people who do not wish to pursue an academic route.</p> <p>In April 2023, Birmingham City Council adopted as policy: <a href="#">CHANGE for children and young people 2023-2028</a>, a plan to make Birmingham a great place to grow up for children and young people. This Plan aims to</p>

Ref no	Date	Summary of Council Resolution	Lead Cabinet Member / Officer(s)	Update
		<p>disenfranchised pupils, in particular NEETS, who do not normally engage with standard and legacy forms of Council communication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote vocational training, apprenticeships and entrepreneurship in schools.</li> <li>- Ensure that solutions are fully inclusive to ensure the city's most disadvantaged young people, including those in the care system, have access to a full range of opportunities through a school system empowered to work collectively for the benefit of all students.</li> <li>- Continue to highlight the risks to students of failure to maintain school budgets and, in particular, levels of pupil premium".</li> </ul>		<p>improve outcomes for all babies, children, and young people in our city, and is delivered via <a href="#">Birmingham Children and Young People's Partnership</a>, which is a formal collaboration between Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Children's Trust, Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, West Midlands Police, and Birmingham Voluntary Services Council.</p> <p>Birmingham has been accepted onto UNICEF's Child Friendly City Programme, the 11th place in the UK to join. An updated version of the Change for Children and Young People Plan, including Birmingham's Child Friendly City action plan, will be taken to Cabinet in 2024. <b>Ongoing</b></p>
4.	18 April 2023	<p><b>Motion A</b></p> <p>This Council acknowledges that work on improving road safety, requires co-operation between Birmingham City Council, West Midlands Police and the Combined Authority, but calls on the Council continue to be proactive in working with these partners and delivering projects that will make our roads safer. It specifically requests for the Government to be lobbied to release findings of the national parking on pavements consultation and for the Executive to:</p>	Cabinet Member for Transport	<b>Ongoing</b>

Ref no	Date	Summary of Council Resolution	Lead Cabinet Member / Officer(s)	Update
		<p>a. Ask the Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review and help shape the Council’s new Road Safety Strategy including looking into relevant criteria and a near miss strategy, which would enable criteria such as records of non-injury accidents, proximity to schools, community facilities with high pedestrian and cyclist use, and recorded levels of speeding to be considered.</p> <p>b. Work with partners including the police and other metropolitan local authorities to publish a clear plan for the promised development of the average speed camera network.</p>		<p>Officers continue to engage with the Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee to support and inform the development of the refreshed Road Harm Reduction Strategy. The new strategy aligns closely with the Birmingham Transport Plan and wider best practice in road harm reduction, following Vision Zero and the Healthy Streets approach.</p> <p>In November, a working draft of the new Road Harm Reduction Strategy was shared with the Task and Finish Group of the Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee, set up to focus on road safety issues.</p> <p>The terms of reference for this enquiry are focused primarily on enforcement, and the findings will feed into the new Strategy and operational practice, as appropriate.</p> <p>Comments received from the group are being used to update and improve the strategy in advance of public consultation commencing <b>in January 2024</b>.</p> <p>The results of this consultation process will be analysed, and findings presented to the Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee to steer completion of the final version of the new Road Harm Reduction Strategy, before it is presented to the Cabinet to approve its adoption in spring/summer 2024.</p> <p>BCC, West Midlands Police and West Midlands Metropolitan Local Authorities continue to deliver a programme of coordinated enforcement activity, on an intelligence-led basis.</p>

Ref no	Date	Summary of Council Resolution	Lead Cabinet Member / Officer(s)	Update
		<p>c. Ensure, where possible and practicable, road and pavement resurfacing programmes are aligned with any potential road safety work.</p> <p>d. Ensure use of all potential funding sources for road safety work is maximised, including community chest, town council and parish</p>		<p>BCC officers continue to work in close partnership with West Midlands Police, Transport for West Midlands and partner authorities to develop a revised, regional operating model for delivery of speed enforcement (including Average Speed Enforcement) across Birmingham and the wider West Midlands metropolitan area. Regrettably, this process has stalled whilst partners seek to reach consensus. Intense work is underway to overcome these issues, and BCC officers are proactively supporting these efforts.</p> <p>As soon as regional consensus is reached and a workable regional model is identified, it is proposed to seek Cabinet approval for the principles of this work, with detailed arrangements approved subsequently by the Cabinet Member for Transport.</p> <p>The Road Harm Reduction Strategy will not include a bespoke delivery programme. Instead, the approach involves mainstreaming road harm reduction across Birmingham’s transport and highways delivery programme via the Birmingham Transport Plan: Delivery Plan. This approach will deliver a number of significant advantages, including the ability to coordinate with planned maintenance activities more efficiently, and enabling schemes to attract funding from a much wider range of potential sources to deliver greater overall value for money, through economies of scale.</p> <p>As above c.</p> <p>The new Road Harm Reduction Strategy includes the introduction of a ‘Healthy Street Fund’, to replace the</p>

Ref no	Date	Summary of Council Resolution	Lead Cabinet Member / Officer(s)	Update
		<p>council funding and funding for other highways projects and money from the clean air zone revenue where appropriate. And not limit itself to the small, dedicated funding for road safety schemes from Government. Noting the importance of not fettering local ward councillor discretion in how funds such as Community Chest are best applied in their area and that local funding pots, including those listed above, must remain recommended by' the relevant ward councillors. And money from the clean air zone revenue where appropriate.</p> <p>e. Encourage ward councillors in their role as local community leaders to bring forward road safety priorities in ward plans.</p> <p>f. Reaffirm its commitment to a vision zero approach for road safety in the new road safety strategy, which should aim to eliminate all deaths and serious injuries on Birmingham's roads by 2034.</p> <p>g. Ensure the new road safety strategy: (i) Prioritises the most vulnerable road users (E.g. those on foot, on bike, or with access needs, such as wheelchair users), in line with the new Highway Code hierarchy of road users; (ii) Includes measures to tackle speeding, and anti-social obstructive and dangerous parking (e.g on pavements, cycle lanes, and across dropped</p>		<p>Ward Minor Measures Fund. This will be presented for approval in the Transport and Highways Delivery Programme via Cabinet Report in January.</p> <p>This fund will support Local Ward Councillors, in their role as local community leaders, to identify and deliver interventions which comply with the Healthy Streets approach via Local Engineering Teams in their local areas. Officers are currently working with Lucy Saunders of Healthy Streets, to identify a training package for officers, Local Ward Councillors and partners to support the transition towards this proactive approach.</p> <p>As above d.</p> <p>The refreshed Road Harm Reduction Strategy has Vision Zero at its heart and seeks to eliminate fatal and serious injuries on Birmingham's roads.</p> <p>The refreshed Road Harm Reduction Strategy proposes the adoption of the Healthy Streets approach to deliver road harm reduction. This holistic approach involves gradual, proactive redesign of the streetscape to prioritise the needs of people above motorised traffic.</p>

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		<p>kerbs) in a way that prioritises the most vulnerable road users.</p> <p>h. Ensure road safety schemes and other highway improvements work to design out speed and other harmful behaviours.</p> <p>Reaffirm Birmingham City Council’s commitment to 20mph on all its residential roads.</p> <p>i. Lobby Government once again for the powers to make this change to 20mph without having to resort to costly Traffic Regulation Orders for every change of speed limit on every residential road.</p> <p>j. Lobby West Midlands Police for more monitoring and enforcement of speed and more enforcement of anti-social, obstructive and dangerous parking that is under their jurisdiction.</p> <p>k. Investigate what can be done to give greater support to groups wanting to set up and run Community Speedwatch sessions”.</p>		<p>As above g.</p> <p>The approach to lobbying is being reviewed currently in the light of the recent publication of the Government’s Plan for Drivers.</p> <p>As above b.</p> <p>As above b.</p>
3.	18 April 2023	<p><b>Motion B</b></p> <p>The Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>formally support the Show Us You Care Too campaign and adopt ‘care experience’ as an additional</li> </ul>	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>Meetings are being arranged to ensure progress is being made to take forward resolutions agreed.</p>



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		<p>equality strand alongside the protected characteristics as set out in the Equality Act 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• formally call upon our partners to treat care experience as a Protected Characteristic.</li> <li>• lobby Government to amend the Equality Act 2010 to include care experience as a protected characteristic.</li> <li>• continue to build on the work of our Children’s Trust and to continue to support the efforts of our Corporate Parenting Board”.</li> </ul>		<p>A new Elected Member handbook has been created that will be available to elected members regarding their Corporate Parenting responsibilities. This will have links to information for individuals, businesses, and organisations.</p> <p>A new Corporate Parenting Video produced to share with individuals, businesses and organisations across Birmingham and promote way to get involved.</p> <p>A ‘Social Value’ support document has been drafted for council and Birmingham Childrens Trust contracts on how they can support those with care experience.</p> <p>Work being undertaken to support changes within council contracts to ensure weighting includes and prioritises those with care experience.</p> <p>Plans developed and underway, so all Birmingham Children’s Trust contracts are shaped and weighted through our Corporate Parenting Team and ‘Social Value’ support document.</p> <p>Offers developed with businesses and organisations we procure with as a council and as Birmingham Childrens Trust (e.g., Kier, Equans and Fortem).</p> <p>Some good examples from businesses and partners can be seen with Lovell Homes who have launched a new training, employment and housing pathway, titled ‘We Got You’ <u><a href="#">Lovell - We've Got You</a></u></p>

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				<p>NHS are supporting care experienced young people to access Free Prescriptions and “Priority Cards’ for GP appointments through their work with the Corporate Parenting Board.</p> <p>NHS are supporting care experienced young people to access Free Prescriptions and “Priority Cards’ for GP appointments through their work with the Corporate Parenting Board.</p> <p>Co-Produced Perinatal Pathway launch ensuring our care experienced young parents get the right support. This includes access to support and services that can provide early support that has been designed with young parents.</p> <p>The Corporate Parenting Board has an ongoing Action Tracker so that members and partners can be accountable for their actions.</p>
4.	13 June 2023	<p><b>Motion A</b></p> <p>This Council commits to working with the local community to find suitable places to place defibrillators, acknowledging that they are most effective within 3 minutes of a person collapsing.</p> <p>This Council, therefore, resolves to work with partners to commission a report into the accessibility of defibrillators and bleed kits in Birmingham and to ascertain what steps are necessary to ensure that there is a defibrillator and bleed kit within a 3-minute</p>	Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>The Public Health team are working alongside community safety colleagues and will be leading on producing the report and presenting it to the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership and the Police and Crime Commissioner for action. Timeframes are currently being agreed.</p>

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		<p>radius of our local centres and high-streets including a campaign of improved public awareness of where these are and how to use them as well. This ongoing work requires a multi-agency, collaborative approach to ensure the maximum impact.</p> <p>The council resolves to facilitate the provision of bleed kits in schools, colleges, youth clubs, bars and nightclubs, and ensure that training in their use is provided by a qualified practitioner.</p> <p>Trained users should have refresher training every three years. New persons should be appointed when trained individuals step down or leave.</p> <p>The council will write to the Police Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands requesting that all West Midlands Police vehicles carry first aid kits that include bleed kits.”</p>		<p>Letter sent</p>
5.	13 June 2023	<p><b>Motion B</b></p> <p>This council further calls for the government to pass legislation to allow English councils to set up municipal bus companies on the model of the award-winning Nottingham City Transport.</p> <p>Getting people onto public transport and out of cars vital for reducing congestion, and this is a key pledge for the Council’s “route to zero” commitment which aims for carbon neutrality by 2030, and the WMCA ambition of carbon neutral travel by 2041. The WMCA green paper stated that 92% of respondents were concerned about climate change.</p>	Cabinet Member for Transport	<p>Lobbying letters were sent to the Secretary of State for Transport and the West Midlands Combined Authority in October 2023. A response from DfT was received on 13 November 2023: <a href="#">MarkHarper.pdf</a></p> <p>The government have recently announced that the voluntary fares cap will remain at £2 per journey through the whole of 2024, rather than increasing to £2.50 in November 2023 as originally proposed.</p> <p>Greater Manchester have launched the first part of their franchised ‘Bee’ Network and are proposing to roll it out to other parts of their conurbation next year.</p>

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		<p>Road space reallocation and bus priority are vital to make bus journeys quicker across Birmingham, and this council re-affirms its commitment to them and to the principles set out in the Birmingham Transport Plan.</p> <p>It also reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that buses are accessible to everyone, including disabled people and people with additional needs of all kinds, and will continue to use its influence through the Enhanced Partnership and Bus Alliance to ensure that bus operators provide accessible services.</p> <p>Since the pandemic, services have been cut, and reliability has been patchy.</p> <p>Bus scheduling shouldn't be devolved to private companies but should be run for the public good.</p> <p>Government must provide an adequate and consistent level of bus recovery funding and end its current stop-start approach. With services in the West Midlands still badly affected by a shortage of bus drivers, government must also work with the bus operators to increase the number of applicants and respond to the bus industry's calls for bus drivers to be added to the UK immigration shortage occupation list.</p> <p>This council calls on the government to live up to its own requirement that half of all journeys in towns and cities are on foot, bike or public transport by 2030. This means a 'London-style' transport system in cities</p>		<p>A Bus Franchising Working Group has been convened by TfWM which meets fortnightly and includes senior transport officers from all of the West Midlands authorities. This will provide steer, review and challenge to the technical work now underway on franchising options for the area.</p> <p>The re-basing of the CRSTS programme has been completed by TfWM, and is now subject to review and ratification by DfT. Subject to dft approval, this will retain funding for Cross-City Bus and Sprint Phase 2 public transport priority schemes.</p> <p>TfWM has undertaken a briefing session with the Cabinet Member for Transport, to which all local Councillors were invited, to brief them on current issues and developments in bus policy and the bus industry, including an update on the technical work now underway to develop franchising options for the area. Similar sessions are being undertaken within the other West Midlands authorities.</p>

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		<p>across the country to make public transport accessible and the natural choice.</p> <p>Transport for the West Midlands, Birmingham City Council and its partner councils in the WMCA need the powers and the funding to make this a reality.</p> <p>The 2017 Bus Services Act gave Mayoral Combined Authorities the powers to regulate bus services and create bus franchising schemes. However, this also specifically prevented Combined and Local Authorities from setting up new municipally owned bus operators. The few remaining municipally owned bus companies in the UK are some of best performing bus operators both on price and quality of service.</p> <p>The Council calls on the West Midlands Mayor and the West Midlands Combined Authority to use what powers they do have to move to franchise and regulate West Midland bus services.</p> <p>The Council calls on Westminster to give local and combined authorities the full range of powers to regulate, franchise and own local bus services, depending on what is appropriate for their local area.</p> <p>The Council calls on Westminster for an expansion of current fare subsidy with the aim to get to a £1 single bus fare.</p>		

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		<p>The Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to lobby for powers to regulate franchise and set up local bus operators.</p> <p>The Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to lobby for a funding model that helps move to cheaper £1 single bus fares.</p> <p>The Council resolves to lobby the West Midlands Mayor and Combined Authority to move to a franchising model for West Midlands bus services and use the full extent of their powers for bus regulation.</p> <p>The Council resolves to lobby and work with the West Midlands Mayor and Combined Authority to improve cross-suburban bus routes.”</p>		
6.	12 September 2023	<p><b>Motion B</b></p> <p>...This Council believes in adopting a Psychologically-Informed and Trauma-Informed Practice. This is a strengths-based, non-pathologizing approach, which seeks to understand and respond to the impact of trauma on people’s lives. The approach emphasises physical, psychological, and emotional safety for everyone and aims to empower individuals to re-establish control of their lives.</p> <p>We call on the Executive to take the following steps to help the Council to become ‘trauma informed’: Use the learning and research on trauma to inform change in practice and thus be better able to reduce</p>	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>Dates to be agreed with service areas to look at how the council can become more trauma informed. Also to look at types of training that is needed.</p>

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		<p>the negative effects of trauma on the lives of all with whom we come in contact.</p> <p>Look into providing Trauma Informed Practice training to officers and members.</p> <p>Assess options to broaden and embed Trauma Informed Practice within Council directorates.</p> <p>Continue to work with our partners and key stakeholders as a trauma informed network and implement a consistent approach across all bodies.</p> <p>Deliver services by responding to individuals' needs and creating nurturing and supportive environments where people feel valued, and efforts are made to resist inadvertent re-traumatisation.</p> <p>Adopting the trauma-informed principles of safety, trust, choice, collaboration, empowerment, and cultural sensitivity so that we can help people to overcome the effects of trauma and improve both access to services and long-term outcomes.</p>		
7.	7 November 2023	<p><b>Motion A</b></p> <p>This Council believes that the City's heritage and cultural assets are fundamental to our ambitions to attract investment and visitors and essential to the physical and mental well-being of our residents...</p> <p>...Council... commits to continue to look at all possible ways to:</p>	Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage & Tourism	<b>In progress</b>

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		<p>Protect all cultural and heritage assets, including all libraries, parks, playing fields, public open spaces and museum sites, from any capital disposals.</p> <p>Work with community campaigns such as the ‘Save Birmingham – protect our community places’ campaign by Cooperatives West Midlands, by supporting community asset transfers and other community-led governance models where these can be shown to be the best and most sustainable solution to protecting the long-term future of these assets.</p> <p>Work closely with Arts and Culture organisations, the community sector, external funding organisations and other partners to promote that the city is open for business despite the Council’s own challenges and that its arts and culture offering remains rich and vibrant, with world-class performances and exhibitions with something for everyone.</p> <p>Replicate Friends of Parks and/ or Birmingham Open Spaces Forum resident volunteer models to help manage and maintain cultural and heritages sites and services, and;</p> <p>Develop a work programme for Scrutiny to review the policy plans of the “Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism” portfolio to assess the current ‘health’ of our arts, heritage and cultural assets, their risk of disposal and strategies to protect their provision in the short-, mid- and long-term.”</p>		<p>The Cabinet Member for Environment, as part of his regular engagement with Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF), has highlighted the work of the Save Birmingham campaign and the potential for new community groups to emerge with an interest in maintaining and supporting their local parks and open spaces. BOSF, as the leading umbrella agency for such groups on a city-wide basis, has confirmed it will support anyone seeking to formally establish their own local groups. The Cabinet Member is also committed to</p>



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				actively signposting anyone who enquires to him/his office in the direction of BOSF.
8.	7 November 2023	<p><b>Motion B</b></p> <p>This council recognises that the horrors and repercussions of the conflict in Palestine and Israel have had a profound affect across all communities, but notably the Muslim and Jewish communities here in Birmingham...This Council therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will write to the Government seeking the provision of a support package for refugees fleeing the conflict and provide further aid to assist the UN Agencies in their humanitarian work so that British citizens can get home safely, and Palestinian people are able to stay in their homeland.”.</li> <li>- Will support the active engagement of the voluntary sector in delivering aid and support to refugees from the conflict.</li> <li>- Will proactively engage with any Government schemes to house refugees from the conflict to</li> </ul>	Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities	<b>In progress</b>

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		<p>ensure that all refugees are given a warm welcome in Birmingham.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Calls on everyone in Birmingham to show tolerance and respect at this time of significant stress to many communities; especially those of the Muslim and Jewish faiths.</li> <li>- Will work with faith communities to explore setting up more third-party hate crime reporting mechanisms and write to the Home Secretary to urge Government to reverse its decision to downgrade the monitoring of non-crime hate incidents specifically related to antisemitism and Islamophobia so they can be logged by the police.”</li> </ul>		
9.	5 December 2023	<p>This council resolves:</p> <p>To adopt The Co-Operative Party’s Diverse Councils Declaration to increase diversity in our local government: This Council commits to being a Diverse Council. We agree to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide a clear public commitment to improving diversity in democracy.</li> <li>2. Demonstrate an open and welcoming culture to all, promoting the highest standards of behaviour and conduct.</li> <li>3. Set out a local Diverse Council Action Plan ahead of the next local elections. Including:</li> </ol>	Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>Leader has issued letter to opposition leaders encouraging their parties, as per the declaration.</p> <p>Duty of care to members</p> <p>The Council provides Councillors with the same access to its Employee Assistance Programme in the same way that employees have access to it. Councillors can access the service irrespective of whether it relates to their official role. The scheme allows access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confidential help and guidance, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage political groups to work with each other and local party associations to encourage recruitment of candidates from under-represented groups.</li> <li>- Encourage and enable people from under-represented groups to stand for office through the provision of activities such as mentoring and shadowing programmes and information and learning events for people interested in standing as official candidates.</li> <li>- Proactive engagement and involvement with local community groups and partner organisations supporting and representing under-represented groups.</li> <li>- Ensure that all members and candidates complete a candidates' and councillors' survey distributed at election time.</li> <li>- Encourage political groups to set targets for candidates from under-represented groups at the next local elections.</li> </ul> <p>4. Work towards the standards for member support and development as set out in the LGA Councillor Development Charter and/or Charter Plus.</p> <p>5. Demonstrate a commitment to a duty of care for councillors by:</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-the-moment advice and support</li> <li>• Up to six counselling sessions, per issue, per year – this includes Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) (if indicated)</li> <li>• Counsellors with debt advice training</li> <li>• Critical incident trained counsellors</li> <li>• Short-term focussed support model</li> <li>• Citizens Advice help</li> <li>• Online information and webinars</li> <li>• An online chat function</li> <li>• A budgeting calculator</li> </ul> <p>Further information can be found at Employee Assistance Programme (EAP)   Birmingham City Council Portal</p> <p><b>Zero-tolerance approach to bullying and harassment of members including through social networks.</b></p> <p>Guidance on personal safety (which is based on the LGA templates) has been updated and whilst previous guidance was circulated in October, the updated guidance will be recirculated.</p> <p>Currently member services are undertaking a review of recent incidents as case studies to review how reporting can be improved and what further practical support can be provided including additional legal remedies. This includes improved communication with the Police and the possible adoption of a single point of contact.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- providing access to counselling services for all councillors having regard for the safety and wellbeing of councillors whenever they are performing their role as councillors.</li> <li>- taking a zero-tolerance approach to bullying and harassment of members including through social networks.</li> </ul> <p>6. Provide flexibility in council business by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- regularly reviewing and staggering meeting times</li> <li>- encouraging and supporting remote attendance at meetings</li> <li>- agreeing recess periods to support councillors with caring or work commitments.</li> <li>- Write to &amp; lobby Government for the powers to run formal council meetings remotely or as hybrid meetings and allow councillors to vote &amp; attend virtually.</li> </ul> <p>7. Ensure that all members take up the allowances and salaries to which they are entitled, particularly any reimbursement for costs of care, so that all members receive fair remuneration for their work and that the role of member is not limited to those who can afford it.</p>		<p>LGA briefings have been offered on Social Media Guidance for Elected Members (attendance10%) and Personal Safety Awareness Workshop (attendance10%). Need to review effectiveness of the training.</p> <p>Provide flexibility in council business by:</p> <p>regularly reviewing and staggering meeting times</p> <p>encouraging and supporting remote attendance at meetings</p> <p>agreeing recess periods to support councillors with caring or work commitments.</p> <p>An initial draft survey assessing timings of Committee meetings prepared in July 2023 which was updated at the end of August 2023. Subject to final approval this is ready for circulation and will enable us to develop a clearer understanding of Councillors views ahead of a cost benefit analysis with contributions from IDT, Building management and possible consultation with staff.</p> <p>Council now has the necessary IT equipment in place to support remote attendance, but it should be noted that the Government rejected an amendment to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (as it was then) to change the current law to allow remote meetings.</p>

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		<p>8. Ensure that the council adopts a parental leave policy setting out members' entitlement to maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoption leave and relevant allowances.</p> <p>9. Ensure that councillors from under-represented groups are represented whenever possible in high profile, high influence roles.</p> <p>10. Support Disability Rights UK's campaign to reinstate the Access to Elected Office Fund.</p> <p>11. Write to &amp; lobby Government asking for the Access to Elected Office Fund to be reinstated and to ensure it includes Council elections."</p>		<p>However this does not apply to informal meetings. Flexibility will also be picked up as part of the constitutional review in terms of the number and frequency of meetings.</p> <p>The Leader has written to Government urging Government to reconsider the evidence into the impact that the emergency legislation issued during Covid had, and to reconsider bringing forward new legislation. To allow formal council meetings to be held as hybrid meetings to allow councillors to vote and attend virtually.</p> <p>Through allowing formal meetings to be held in a hybrid fashion, we can attract the very best talents to local government, without forcing them to quit their jobs or forgo their caring commitments.</p> <p>This view is upheld by research by the LGA which found that 72 per cent of councillors surveyed in a poll agreed that a hybrid model could attract more young people, people from an ethnic minority background, and women, all of which are groups which have been historically under-represented in local government.</p> <p>The LGA also found that 84 per cent of councils found their councillors with work commitments would benefit from hybrid meetings, whilst 64 per cent thought that councillors with childcare commitments would also take advantage of the changes.</p> <p><b>Parental leave policy</b></p>

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				<p>The current Members Allowance Scheme sets out current policy which, amongst other things provides: Section 8.1 Basic Allowances - “All Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full in the case of maternity, paternity and adoption leave for six months subject to review, with a presumption that this will be extended for another six months if requested”. Further provision is made for those members in receipt of a SRA (section 8.2), including Maternity and paternity leave, adoptive parent leave and shared parental leave.</p> <p>The current members allowance scheme allows for a carers allowance (see section 4) which provides:</p> <p>A Carers’ Allowance can be claimed where Councillors necessarily incur expenditure in arranging care of their children or dependents when undertaking the same range of duties for which travel allowances and expenses can be claimed [Section 7].</p> <p>Allowance Rate The rate that can be claimed will depend on the nature of the care involved: For independent care the maximum hourly rate that can be claimed will be the living wage. For professional qualified carer with supporting documentation, the maximum hourly rate that can be claimed will be set at the Council’s Care Assistant rate. The current maximum hourly rates are shown in the Appendix.</p> <p><b>CARERS’ ALLOWANCES</b> Independent care – hourly rate 9.90</p>

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				<p>Professional care with supporting documentation – hourly rate 10.32</p> <p>The Leader has sent a letter to Government seeking the reinstatement of the Elected Office Fund to be reinstated.</p>

